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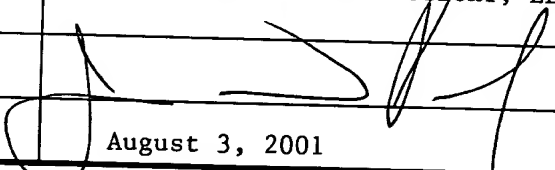
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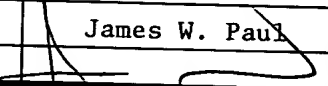
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/865,021
	Filing Date	May 23, 2001
	First Named Inventor	David A. Ferrera
	Group Art Unit	2874
	Examiner Name	Unknown
	Attorney Docket Number	MICRU:57642
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		7

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):  Preliminary Amendment Return Postcard
Remarks		 <b>24201</b> PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP
Signature	
Date	August 3, 2001

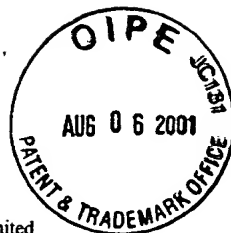
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

DAVID A. FERRERA, ET AL.

Serial No. 09/865,021

Filed: May 23, 2001

For: VARIABLE STIFFNESS  
OPTICAL FIBER SHAFT

)  
) Prior Examiner: J. KANG  
)  
) Group Art Unit: 2874  
)  
)  
) Docket No. MICRU 57642  
)  
) Los Angeles, California  
Date: August 3, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in connection with the above noted continuation application, which is based upon Serial No. 09/219,572 filed December 22, 1998, now Patent No. 6,240,231.

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